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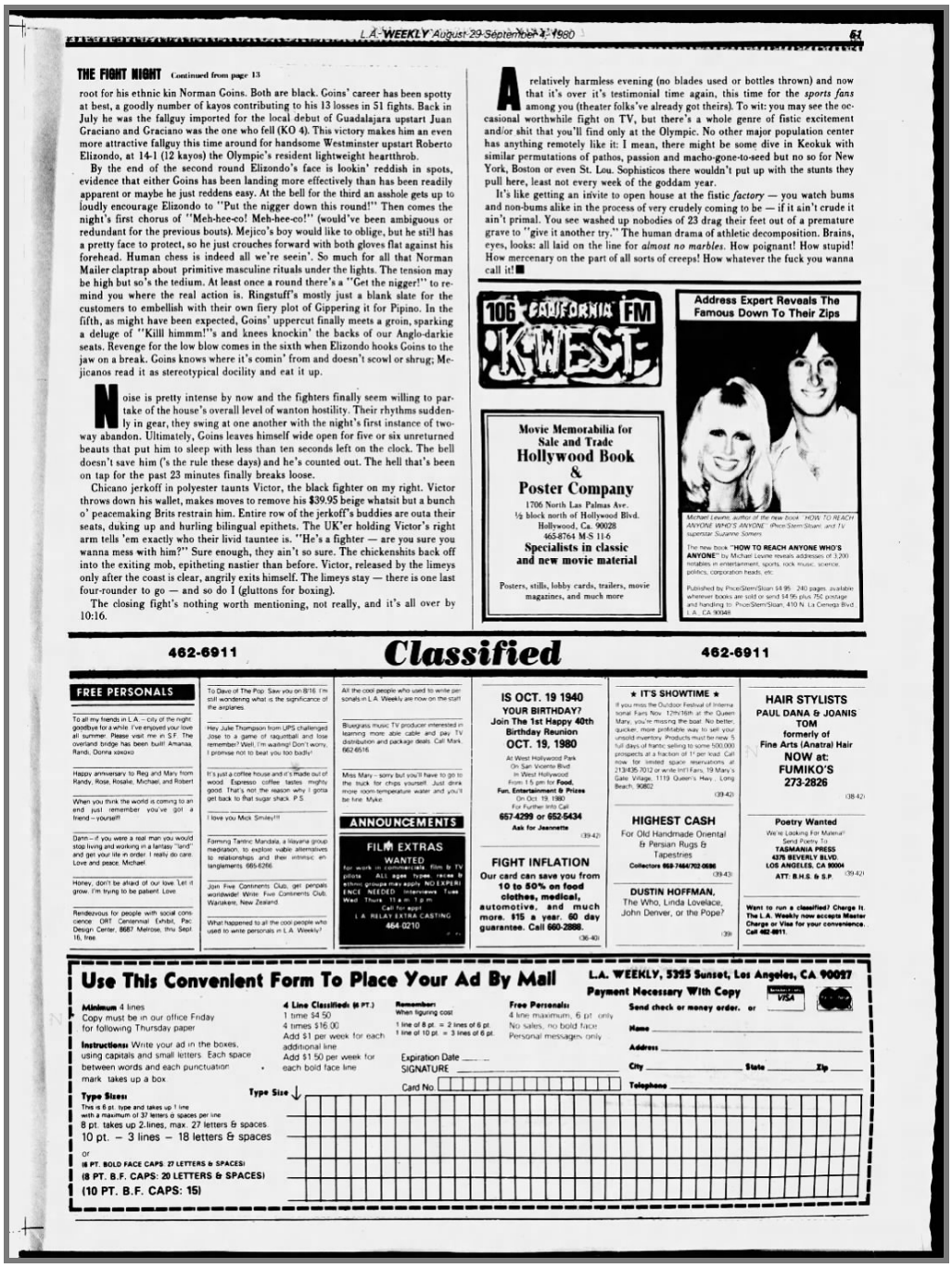

THE FIGHT NIGHT Continued from page 13

root for his ethnic kin Norman Goins. Both are black. Goins' career has been spotty at best, a goodly number of kayos contributing to his 13 losses in 51 fights. Back in July he was the fallguy imported for the local debut of Guadalajara upstart Juan Graciano and Graciano was the one who fell (KO 4). This victory makes him an even more attractive fallguy this time around for handsome Westminster upstart Roberto Elizondo, at 14-1 (12 kayos) the Olympic's resident lightweight heartthrob.

By the end of the second round Elizondo's face is lookin' reddish in spots, evidence that either Goins has been landing more effectively than has been readily apparent or maybe he just reddens easy. At the bell for the third an asshole gets up to loudly encourage Elizondo to "Put the nigger down this round!" Then comes the night's first chorus of "Meh-hee-co! Meh-hee-co!" (would've been ambiguous or redundant for the previous bouts). Mejico's boy would like to oblige, but he still has a pretty face to protect, so he just crouches forward with both gloves flat against his forehead. Human chess is indeed all we're seein'. So much for all that Norman Mailer claptrap about primitive masculine rituals under the lights. The tension may be high but so's the tedium. At least once a round there's a "Get the nigger!" to remind you where the real action is. Ringstuff's mostly just a blank slate for the customers to embellish with their own fiery plot of Gippering it for Pipino. In the fifth, as might have been expected, Goins' uppercut finally meets a groin, sparking a deluge of "Killl himmm!"s and knees knockin' the backs of our Anglo-darkie seats. Revenge for the low blow comes in the sixth when Elizondo hooks Goins to the jaw on a break. Goins knows where it's comin' from and doesn't scowl or shrug; Mejicanos read it as stereotypical docility and eat it up.

Noise is pretty intense by now and the fighters finally seem willing to partake of the house's overall level of wanton hostility. Their rhythms suddenly in gear, they swing at one another with the night's first instance of two-way abandon. Ultimately, Goins leaves himself wide open for five or six unreturned beauts that put him to sleep with less than ten seconds left on the clock. The bell doesn't save him ('s the rule these days) and he's counted out. The hell that's been on tap for the past 23 minutes finally breaks loose.

Chicano jerkoff in polyester taunts Victor, the black fighter on my right. Victor throws down his wallet, makes moves to remove his $39.95 beige whatsit but a bunch o' peacemaking Brits restrain him. Entire row of the jerkoff's buddies are outa their seats, duking up and hurling bilingual epithets. The UK'er holding Victor's right arm tells 'em exactly who their livid tauntee is. "He's a fighter — are you sure you wanna mess with him?" Sure enough, they ain't so sure. The chickenshits back off into the exiting mob, epitheting nastier than before. Victor, released by the limeys only after the coast is clear, angrily exits himself. The limeys stay — there is one last four-rounder to go — and so do I (gluttons for boxing).

The closing fight's nothing worth mentioning, not really, and it's all over by 10:16.

A relatively harmless evening (no blades used or bottles thrown) and now that it's over it's testimonial time again, this time for the *sports fans* among you (theater folks've already got theirs). To wit: you may see the occasional worthwhile fight on TV, but there's a whole genre of fistic excitement and/or shit that you'll find only at the Olympic. No other major population center has anything remotely like it: I mean, there might be some dive in Keokuk with similar permutations of pathos, passion and macho-gone-to-seed but no so for New York, Boston or even St. Lou. Sophisticos there wouldn't put up with the stunts they pull here, least not every week of the goddam year.

It's like getting an invite to open house at the fistic *factory* — you watch bums and non-bums alike in the process of very crudely coming to be — if it ain't crude it ain't primal. You see washed up nobodies of 23 drag their feet out of a premature grave to "give it another try." The human drama of athletic decomposition. Brains, eyes, looks: all laid on the line for *almost no marbles*. How poignant! How stupid! How mercenary on the part of all sorts of creeps! How whatever the fuck you wanna call it! ■

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FREE PERSONALS

To all my friends in L.A. – city of the night goodbye for a while. I've enjoyed your love all summer. Please visit me in S.F. The overland bridge has been built! Amanaa, Randi, Donna xoxoxo

Happy anniversary to Reg and Mary from Randy, Rose, Rosalie, Michael, and Robert

When you think the world is coming to an end just remember you've got a friend – yourself!

Damn – if you were a real man you would stop living and working in a fantasy "land" and get your life in order. I really do care. Love and peace, Michael.

Honey, don't be afraid of our love. Let it grow. I'm trying to be patient. Love

Rendezvous for people with social conscience. ORT Centennial Exhibit, Pac Design Center, 8687 Melrose, thru Sept 16, free.

To Dave of The Pop: Saw you on 8/16. I'm still wondering what is the significance of the airplanes.

Hey Julie Thompson from UPS challenged Jose to a game of raquetball and lose remember? Well, I'm waiting! Don't worry, I promise not to beat you too badly!

It's just a coffee house and it's made out of wood. Espresso coffee tastes mighty good. That's not the reason why I gotta get back to that sugar shack. P.S.

I love you Mick Smiley!!!

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Miss Mary – sorry but you'll have to go to the truck for chips yourself. Just drink more room-temperature water and you'll be fine. Myke.

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